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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/927,665 | NAVAR, MURGESH S. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Son P. Huynh | 2611 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 8/6/01 and communication with applicant's attorney on March 9, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8, 10, 12-17, 23-29 have renumbered as 1-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>08/06/01</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney of Applicant: Lester Wallace (Reg. No. 34,748) on March 9, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

(a) splitting a video file into a first piece and a second piece, the video file being a digital representation of a video;

(b) moving the first piece through a cable network to a first building and storing the first piece in the first building on a first storage device, wherein the first storage device is disposed in a first set-top box;

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(c) moving the second piece through the cable network to a second building and storing the second piece in the second building on a second storage device, wherein the

second storage device is disposed in a second set-top box;

(d) moving the first piece from the first storage device through the cable network and into a third building, and storing the first piece in the third building on a third storage

device, wherein the third storage device is disposed in a third set-top box;

(e) moving the second piece from the second storage device through the cable network and into the third building, and storing the second piece in the third building on the third storage device; and

(f) retrieving and displaying the first piece from the third storage device and substantially contiguously retrieving and displaying the second piece from the third storage device such that the video is displayed in the third building as a single unit.

2.(Canceled)

3.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) occurs in a central cable station.

4.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) occurs in a distribution hub.

5.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) is performed by a content provider, and wherein after the splitting of (a) the first piece and the second piece are supplied to a central cable station.

6.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the video file is an MPEG file.

7.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the cable network includes: a distribution hub, a first fiber node, a second fiber node, a primary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub, a first secondary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub and to the first fiber node, a second secondary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub and to the second fiber node, a first tertiary network coupled to the first fiber node and extending to the first building and to the second building, and a second tertiary network coupled to the second fiber node and extending to the third building.

8.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is a first hard disk disposed in [[a]] the first TV set-top box, and wherein the second storage device is a second hard disk disposed in [[a]] the second TV set-top box, and wherein the third storage device is a third hard disk disposed in [[a]] the third TV set-top box.

9.(Canceled)

10.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is a first memory disposed in [[a]] the first TV set-top box, and wherein the second storage device is a second memory disposed in [[a]] the second TV set-top box, and wherein the third storage device is a third memory disposed in [[a]] the third TV set-top box.

11.(Canceled)

12.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the moving of (d) and the moving of (e) occur substantially simultaneously.

13.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the video is displayed in (f) in the third building on a television screen.

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14.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first piece moves from the first storage device in (d) with a first data rate DR1, wherein the second piece moves from the second storage device in (e) with a second data rate DR2, wherein the first and second pieces move into the third storage device in (d) and (e) with a combined data rate CDR, and wherein CDR is equal to or greater than the sum of DR1 and DR2.

15.(Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(g) determining a downstream available bandwidth into the third storage device;
and

(h) determining a first upstream available bandwidth out of the first storage device and determining a second upstream available bandwidth out of the second storage device; and

(i) based at least in part on (g) and (h), determining how ~~from which of the first, second or first and second storage devices~~ the first an second pieces of the video file will move through the cable network ~~and~~ to the third storage device.

16.(Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[14]]~~ 15, wherein the first piece moves from the first storage device in (d) with a first data rate DR1, wherein the second piece moves from the second storage device in (e) with a second data rate DR2, and wherein the sum of DR1 and DR2 is approximately equal to the downstream available bandwidth determined in (g).

17.(Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(g) viewing a web page on a television screen in the third building;

(h) selecting a link on the web page, the link being indicative of the video; and

(i) in response to the selecting of the link, initiating the moving of (d) and (e).

18.(Canceled)

19.(Canceled)

20.(Canceled)

21.(Canceled)

22.(Canceled)

23.(New) A method, comprising:

(a) splitting a multimedia file into a first piece and a second piece, the multimedia file being a digital representation of a multimedia content, wherein the multimedia content includes information taken from the group consisting of: an amount of video, a game, an amount of music, a picture;

(b) moving the first piece through a cable television network to a first building and storing the first piece in the first building on a first set-top box;

(c) moving the second piece through the cable television network to a second building and storing the second piece in the second building on a second set-top box;

(d) selecting a link, wherein the link is indicative of the multimedia content;

(e) in response to the selecting of (d) moving the first piece from the first storage device through the cable television network and into a third building, and storing the first piece in the third building on a third set-top box;

(f) in response to the selecting of (d) moving the second piece from the second storage device through the cable television network and into the third building, and storing the second piece in the third building on the third set-top box; and

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(g) retrieving the first and second pieces from the third set-top box and playing back or playing the first and second pieces in the third building as a single amount of multimedia content.

24.(New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the cable television network and the first and second and third set-top boxes form a storage area network, and wherein the single amount of multimedia content is played back or played on a wireless device having a screen.

25.(New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the first, second and third set-top boxes are coupled together via the cable television network so that the first, second and third set-top boxes form a storage area network, the storage area network further comprising a central controller, the central controller maintaining a map of where the multimedia content is stored in the storage area network.

26.(New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the cable television network is a cable IP network.

27.(New) The method of Claim 23; further comprising:

viewing a page on a television screen in the third building;

selecting a link on the page, the link being indicative of the multimedia content;

and

in response to the selecting of the link, initiating the moving of (e) and (f), wherein the first piece and second piece are played back or played in (g) by being displayed on the television screen.

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28.(New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the page is served by a central controller, the central controller maintaining a map of where the multimedia content is stored on the first, second and third set-top boxes.

29.(New) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:

viewing a page on a screen in the third building;

selecting a link on the page, the link being indicative of the multimedia content;

and

in response to the selecting of the link, initiating the moving of (e) and (f), wherein the first piece and second piece are played back or played in (g) by being displayed on the screen.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-17, 23-29 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 3-8, 10, 12-17, 23-29, the prior of record fails to show or fairly suggests a method as variously claimed, particularly comprising: a digital video/multimedia file is partitioned into a first piece and a second piece, the first piece is moved through a cable television network into a first building and stored on a storage device of a first set top box located in the first building, the second piece is moved through a cable television network into a second building and stored on a storage device of a second set top box located in the second building, the first and second

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pieces are respectively moved from the storage device of the first set top box and the storage device of the second set top box through the cable television network into a third building and stored on a storage device of the third set top box located in the third building, the first piece and, substantially contiguously, the second piece are retrieved from the storage device of the third set top box and displayed such that the video is displayed in the third building as a single unit.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant and fee for newly added claims must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

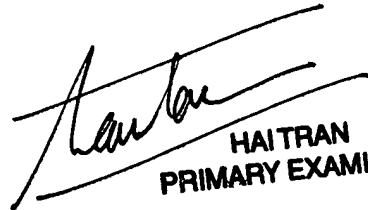
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-7295. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Son P. Huynh
March 10, 2006



HAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER